

REMARKS

Amendments to the Claims

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 3-8 and 16 remain pending in the application. Of the pending claims, claims 3 and 16 are independent.

I. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-16 and 22-25 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because the claims fail to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. The pending claims have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. In view of these amendments, applicants submit that the rejection has been overcome. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-15, 22, and 24-25 as being unpatentable over Macq et al. As these claims have all been cancelled, this rejection is moot.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claim 23 as being unpatentable over Macq in view of Weinberger et al. As this claim has been cancelled, this rejection is moot.

IV. Conclusion

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 3 and 16 are allowable over the prior art of record. For similar reasons, and for the additional reasons set forth above, Applicants urge that the dependent claims are also allowable.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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